Artificial Demons

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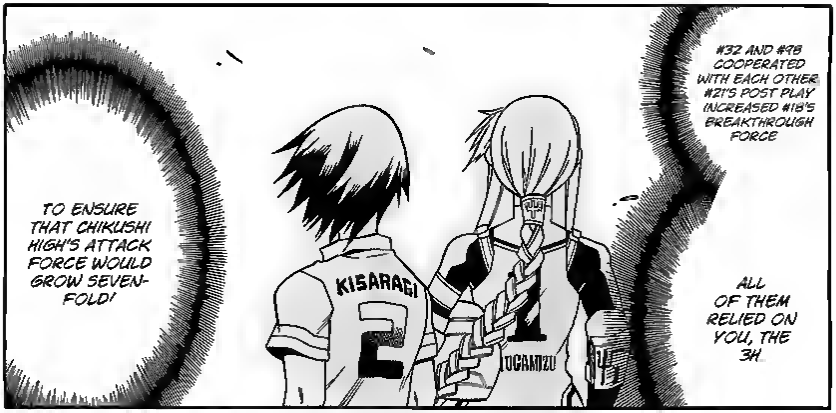
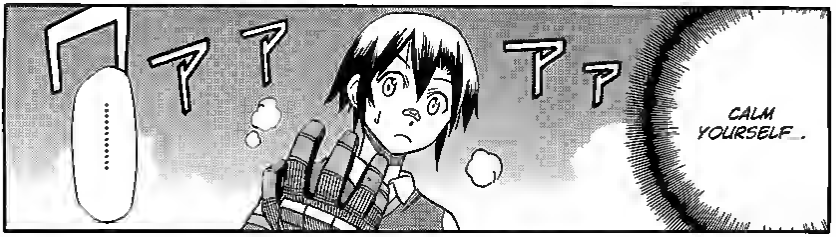
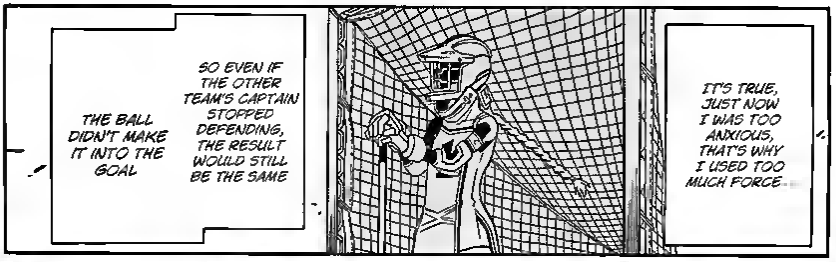
FROM FANS TO FANS. PLEASE SUPPORT THE AUTHOR BY PURCHASING THE ORIGINAL VERSION ONCE IT IS AVAILABLE IN YOUR COUNTRY.

GAME25
Step by Step


#32 AND #78 COOPERATED WITH EACH OTHER. #21'S POST PLAY INCREASED #18'S BREAKTHROUGH FORCE
ALL OF THEM RELIED ON YOU, THE 3H
TO ENSURE THAT CHIKUSHI HIGH'S ATTACK FORCE WOULD GROW SEVEN-FOLD!
KISARAGI
2
TOGAMIZU

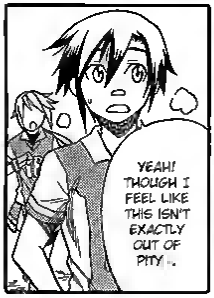

CALM YOURSELF...
.....

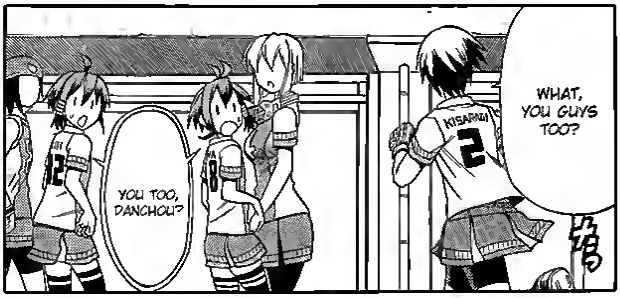

IT'S TRUE, JUST NOW I WAS TOO ANXIOUS, THAT'S WHY I USED TOO MUCH FORCE...
SO EVEN IF THE OTHER TEAM'S CAPTAIN STOPPED DEFENDING, THE RESULT WOULD STILL BE THE SAME
THE BALL DIDN'T MAKE IT INTO THE GOAL

BUT... WHY IS IT...
THAT SHE WOULD TRY TO TEACH AN OPPONENT?
LISTEN TO ME! LISTEN TO ME!

What exactly is going on? Are they taking pity on us because we're doing everything so badly?
YOU TOO, BUN-CHAN?
THEY EVEN GAVE US SUGGES-TIONS!
KANNA 98
YAYOI 32

The offense should be spread a bit wider!
DURING THE GAME, THE OTHER TEAM GAVE US A LOT OF RECOMMENDA-TIONS TOO!

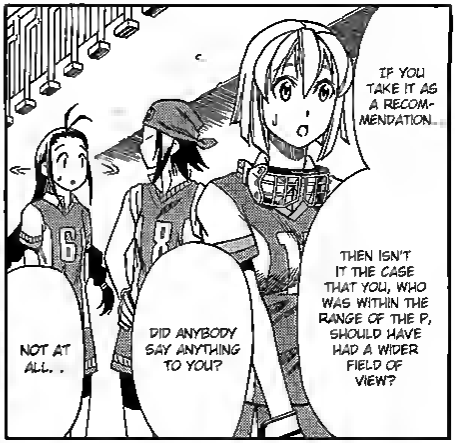

YEAH! THOUGH I FEEL LIKE THIS ISN'T EXACTLY OUT OF PITY...


YOU TOO, DANCHOU?
WHAT, YOU GUYS TOO?
KISARAGI 2

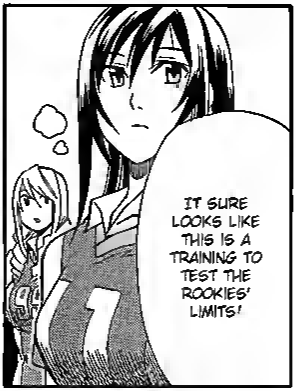
BECAUSE SHE SAID THAT, I MANAGED TO REALIZE THAT KISARAGI-SAN SHOOK OFF THE DEFENSIVE PURSUIT AND WAS COMING OVER.
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.

KUUMIN?
I JUST HEARD SOMEONE SHOUT "NUMBER 2".
Tenjin thinks she addressed it to me.

AS I'VE NOTICED, IT SEEMS THAT THEY'VE ONLY GIVEN SUGGESTIONS TO THE ROOKIES...
IS THAT SO?


IF YOU TAKE IT AS A RECOMMENDATION...
THEN ISN'T IT THE CASE THAT YOU, WHO WAS WITHIN THE RANGE OF THE P, SHOULD HAVE HAD A WIDER FIELD OF VIEW?
DID ANYBODY SAY ANYTHING TO YOU?
NOT AT ALL..

-But...
Nobody gave me any recommendations!

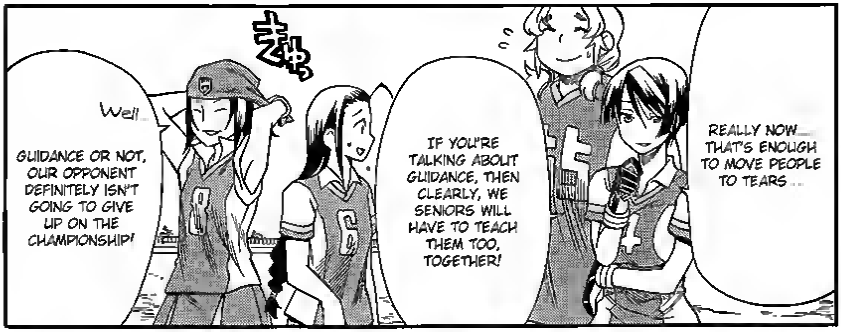

IT SURE LOOKS LIKE THIS IS A TRAINING TO TEST THE ROOKIES' LIMITS!

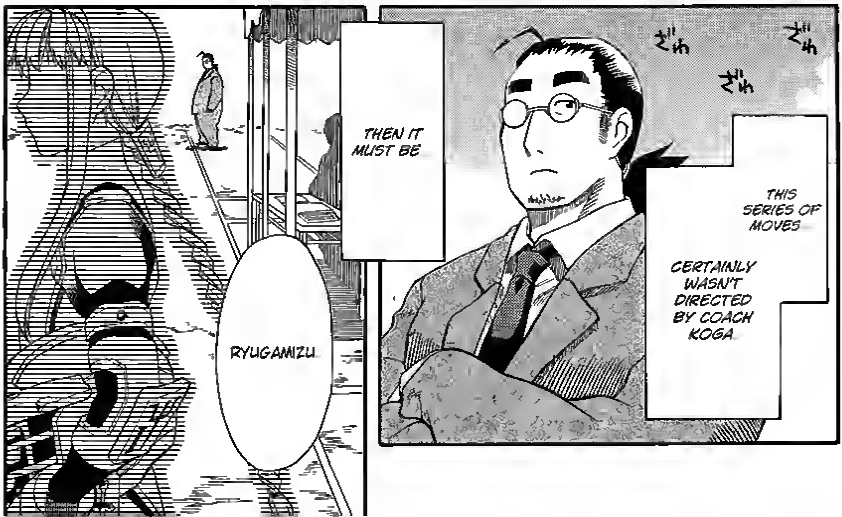
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND TENJIN'S INTENTIONS...

Hmm
WHO KNOWS... HOWEVER, THIS IS ACTUALLY A GOOD THING FOR US
JUST WHAT ARE THEY TRYING TO DO?

You have to
Running quickly
REALLY?
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU MOVE SO QUICKLY THAT NOBODY HAS A CHANCE TO CATCH UP TO YOU...

はい!
Yes
JUST AS EGUCHI SAID...
YESTERDAY'S MEETING MADE US REALIZE THAT COMPETING AGAINST OPPONENTS STRONGER THAN OURSELVES WILL GIVE US VALUABLE EXPERIENCE.
IF THEY TEACH YOU EVEN MORE, THEN YOU ROOKIES MAKE SURE YOU LEARN ALL YOU CAN OUT THERE IN THE FIELD!


REALLY NOW... THAT'S ENOUGH TO MOVE PEOPLE TO TEARS...
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT GUIDANCE, THEN CLEARLY, WE SENIORS WILL HAVE TO TEACH THEM TOO, TOGETHER!
Well
GUIDANCE OR NOT, OUR OPPONENT DEFINITELY ISN'T GOING TO GIVE UP ON THE CHAMPIONSHIP!


THIS SERIES OF MOVES...
CERTAINLY WASN'T DIRECTED BY COACH KOGA...
THEN IT MUST BE...
RYUGAMIZU...

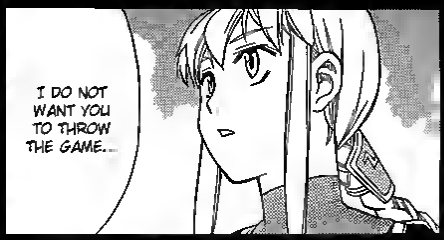
JUST WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ALL OF YOU?
ISN'T THIS ARROGANCE?
IS THAT ABOUT RIGHT?
THEN THAT ALSO MEANS...
Uwaaah
SO, IN ORDER TO TELL HER THIS, YOU DELIBERATELY DID NOT DEFEND THE GOAL?
THE FORCE BEHIND CHIKUSHI #2'S SHOT FOR THE GOAL WAS TOO POWERFUL.
BEFORE HER ATTEMPT, I ALREADY KNEW THAT SHE WOULD NOT SUCCEED
IT IS NOT.
IT ISN'T.
SO THIS ISN'T AT ALL SOME TACTIC, HMM?
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT IF THERE WAS SOMETHING IMPORTANT GOING ON, YOU WOULD ANNOUNCE IT?

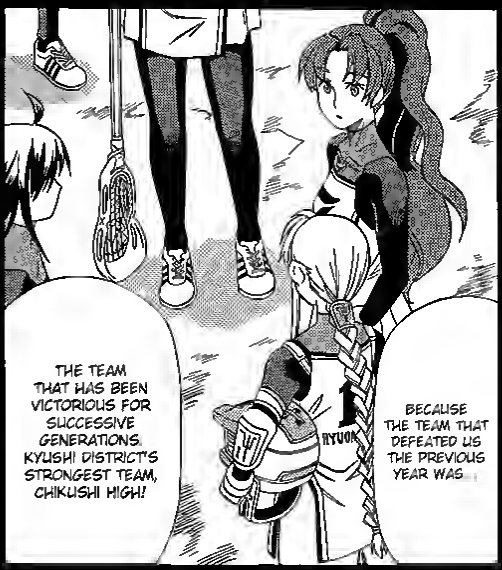
JUST SHOW ME THAT THE RESULTS ARE GOOD, THEN ALL WILL BE WELL
IF THAT'S HOW IT IS, THEN SO BE IT...
EVERYONE GATHER AROUND...
THERE IS SOMETHING I WISH TO SAY
YES.

ALTHOUGH CHIKUSHI HIGH'S PRESENT MEMBERS HAVE GREAT POTENTIAL, HALF OF THEM ARE STILL ROOKIES
THEY'VE RECEIVED LESS THAN TWO MONTHS OF TRAINING ON LACROSSE
IN SPITE OF THIS, THE COORDINATED OFFENSE GROUP FROM THE MIDFIELD TO THE FRONT IS COMPOSED OF A GROUP OF ROOKIES. TO BE FRANK, THIS IS ALREADY A BIG VICTORY FOR THEM.
AT FIRST GLANCE, IT SEEMED LIKE A STUPID TACTIC...
BUT JUST YESTERDAY I WATCHED THEIR MATCH WITH OONOJO HIGH...
THE ROOKIES STILL CAN'T HELP BUT RELY ON SHIHATSU, THOUGH THEY DID LAUNCH A VOLUNTARY ATTACK FROM THE MIDFIELD.
HOWEVER...
THE OPPONENT IS CHIKUSHI...
THIS DISPOSITION SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET THEM TO WIN THE NEXT FORMULA CUP!

BUT PLEASE BE LENIENT WITH THE ROOKIES.
IF DURING THE MATCH YOU SEE SOMETHING THAT COULD USE CORRECTION, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, TRY TO GIVE THEM SOME INSTRUCTION.

GIVE THEM ACTUAL COMBAT EXPERIENCE
THAT'S WHY IN ORDER TO INCREASE THEIR CHANCES OF SUCCESS, RIGHT NOW THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO...


I DO NOT WANT YOU TO THROW THE GAME...


THE TEAM THAT HAS BEEN VICTORIOUS FOR SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS. KYUSHI DISTRICT'S STRONGEST TEAM, CHIKUSHI HIGH!
BECAUSE THE TEAM THAT DEFEATED US THE PREVIOUS YEAR WAS...
KYUOU

WHY?
WHY SHOULD WE TEACH THE OPPONENT?

IF WE CANNOT COMPETE AGAINST A TEAM THAT IS STRONGER THAN THE PAST CHIKUSHI...
OUR IMPROVEMENT WILL HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO MEANING.
THIS IS FOR THE FUTURE, FOR THAT MATCH THAT IS TO COME...
WHERE WE WILL GAIN GREATER RENOWN.
.....
DOES EVERYONE AGREE?
YES.
ACCORDING TO THE COACH, WINNING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.
IF TENJIN WINS THE FRIENDLY MATCH, HE WON'T OBJECT EVEN IF WE DO IT THIS WAY!
THERE IS NO NEED TO SHOW MERCY TOWARDS THE SENIORS
BUT THE GUIDANCE ONLY APPLIES TO THE ROOKIES..

WELL THEN...
CAN WE CRUSH THE DF GROUP NOW?
DON'T GET TOO EXCITED.
IF WE EXPOSE THEIR WEAKNESSES, IT WOULD CAUSE THE ROOKIES TO LOSE HEART AND INJURE THEIR SPIRIT.
THEN THAT JUST SHOWS HOW SKILLED THEY ARE!
ON ACCOUNT OF THE RULES OF LACROSSE...
WHEN THE BALL LEAVES THE PLAYING FIELD IT IS GIVEN TO THE PERSON CLOSEST TO THE BALL
CHIKUSHI HIGH #14 NANASE WILL SERVE
THE MATCH BEGINS!
CALM DOWN THEN AFTER THAT KEEP CAREFUL WATCH
I'M REALLY STARTING TO SEE I'VE GOT THE WRONG KIND OF ENERGY IN MANY ASPECTS...

LEARN FROM THE OPPONENT. HUH? FINE!
IT'S BASED ON TWO DIRECTIONS "MAKING SPACE" AND "MAKING SURE THERE IS A FREE PLAYER"
I KNOW TENJIN'S STRATEGY IS STABLE, BUT BASICALLY, AS A WHOLE...
#98 SANTOU KANNA OPENED UP THE DF, CREATING A SPACE...
GIVING #2 KISARAGI NINA AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE THE BALL!
BUN-CHAN, PASS IT HERE!
CHIKUSHI STILL HAS NO WAY OF GETTING PAST TENJIN'S DEFENSE!
Here! Here!
NANASE
14
THERE'S A GAP!

KEEP THAT BALL!
THAT'S GOOD, #2!
OH...
IT'S EASY TO CATCH!
THERE IS NOWHERE TO PASS!!
KISARAGI
WOW! THEY'RE COMING BACK QUICKLY
YAYOI
THAT'S IT!
WHEN ATTACKING, IF YOU EXPAND WIDELY TO THE LEFT AND RIGHT
IT WILL CREATE AN EMPTY SPACE IN FRONT OF THE GOAL AND IT WILL INCREASE PASS COURSES

WHOAH! THE SANTOU SISTERS SIMULTANEOUSLY SPLIT UP INTO TWO DIRECTIONS!
WHOAH! THE PATH IS OPEN!
SORA!
CHIKUSHI'S OFFENSE ISN'T TOO SHABBY!
THROUGH "FREE RUNNING", THE OPPONENT'S DF WAS OPENED UP, AND A GAP WAS CREATED!
THE BALL WAS PASSED TO #18, UTSUGI.
UTSUGI
18

TENJIN'S #6 THROWS OFF HER RESPONSIBILITY OF GUARDING SANTOU KANNA...
A PAIR OF HEAVY DEFENSE RUNS TOWARDS #18 UTSUGI'S DIRECTION!
CAN UTSUGI MAKE ANOTHER LONE BREAK-THROUGH AND REPOUBLE THE SIEGE?
SORACCHI, PASS IT TO ME!
Hmph!
THEY'RE NOT KEEPING PROPER WATCH OVER ME!
THEY DARE TO LEAVE ME FREE?
OOOOH, WILL #98 UNEXPECTEDLY BE ABLE TO TAKE THE BALL?

This is bad...
SORA, OVER HERE!
HOWEVER...
TENJIN'S #4, GINSUI SWIFTLY BLOCKS THE PATH TO PASS!
TENJIN SEES THE SITUATION. #5 AKAMA IMMEDIATELY ADVANCES TO ADD SOME PRESSURE!
CHIKUSHI FIRST PASSES THE BALL TO NAGASAKO, WHO WAS STANDING BEHIND THE GOAL.
IF THIS WERE A DUEL, I DEFINITELY WOULDN'T WIN...

KULIMIN!
WHILE I STILL HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF DISTANCE I SHOULD PASS THE BALL OUT
#32 SANTOU YAYOI, WHO WAS FREE IN FRONT OF THE GOAL, SUDDENLY RUNS OVER!
OOOOH!
WILL NAGASAKO PASS THE BALL?
THE BALL'S GOING TO BE STOLEN AWAY..
JIKO DELIBERATELY SET THE SNARE!
AAAAH- TENJIN'S #3 KEISEN JIKO SAW THROUGH IT ALL, DASHING IN FROM THE CENTER...

!
AAAAH! UNEXPECTEDLY, THE BALL WASN'T MEANT TO BE PASSED TO #32 SANTOU YAYOI.
INSTEAD, IT WAS PASSED TO #98 SANTOU KANNA, WHO WAS RIGHT BEHIND!
KANNA
98
おお
おお
THIS IS CHIKUSHI HIGH'S GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!
Got it!
Heh heh
I KNEW IT, IF IT WERE UP TO YAYOI, THIS IS HOW SHE WOULD DO IT
YAYOI, KANNA, YOU CAN DO IT!
BEAUTIFULLY DONE, MY CHILD!

Aaaah
AH! TENJIN S #4 GINSUI...
INTERCEPTS FROM THE CENTER!
!?
THE OPPONENT IS ABOUT TO COUNTERATTACK!
QUICK, GET BACK, GET BACK TO DEFENSE!
Nagasaka, don't mind it too much!
WHAT A DAMN PITY!
BUT RIGHT AHEAD OF HER IS THE BLUE PRINCESS OF THUNDER!
TENJIN QUICKLY PASSES THE BALL TO #9 AIKA, WHO IS STANDING IN THE MIDFIELD.
.....

LAST YEAR'S CHIKUSHI HIGH WAS PRETTY STRONG...
INSAIGOU AS THE GOALIE, KOMATSU AS THE 3M, SHIMAZU AS THE C...
WHILE RYUGAMIZU-SENPAI REGARDS YOU HIGHLY...
I, ON THE OTHER HAND, DO NOT FEEL THE SAME.
KIRINO.
THEN THERE'S THE IH...
THIS YEAR'S TEAM IS SO WEAK, TO THE POINT THAT THEY NEED THE OPPONENT'S HELP.
THE REASON FOR THIS WEAKNESS ISN'T THE NEW GENERATION OF PLAYERS...
LAST YEAR, YOU DESTROYED WHAT WAS ONCE CALLED THE STRONGEST TEAM, CHIKUSHI HIGH!
BUT BECAUSE YOU'VE DESTROYED IT...

HUH? WHAT HAPPENED TO SHIHATSU?
SEEING THE BLUE PRINCESS OF THUNDER MAKE THIS KIND OF MISTAKE IS RARE..
SHE UNEXPECTEDLY LET A SIMPLE PASS ESCAPE HER—
AND THE ONE WHO CAUGHT THE BALL WAS TENJIN'S #7 KIYOTAKE.. CHASING IT DOWN FROM THE RIGHT SIDE IN ONE BREATH!

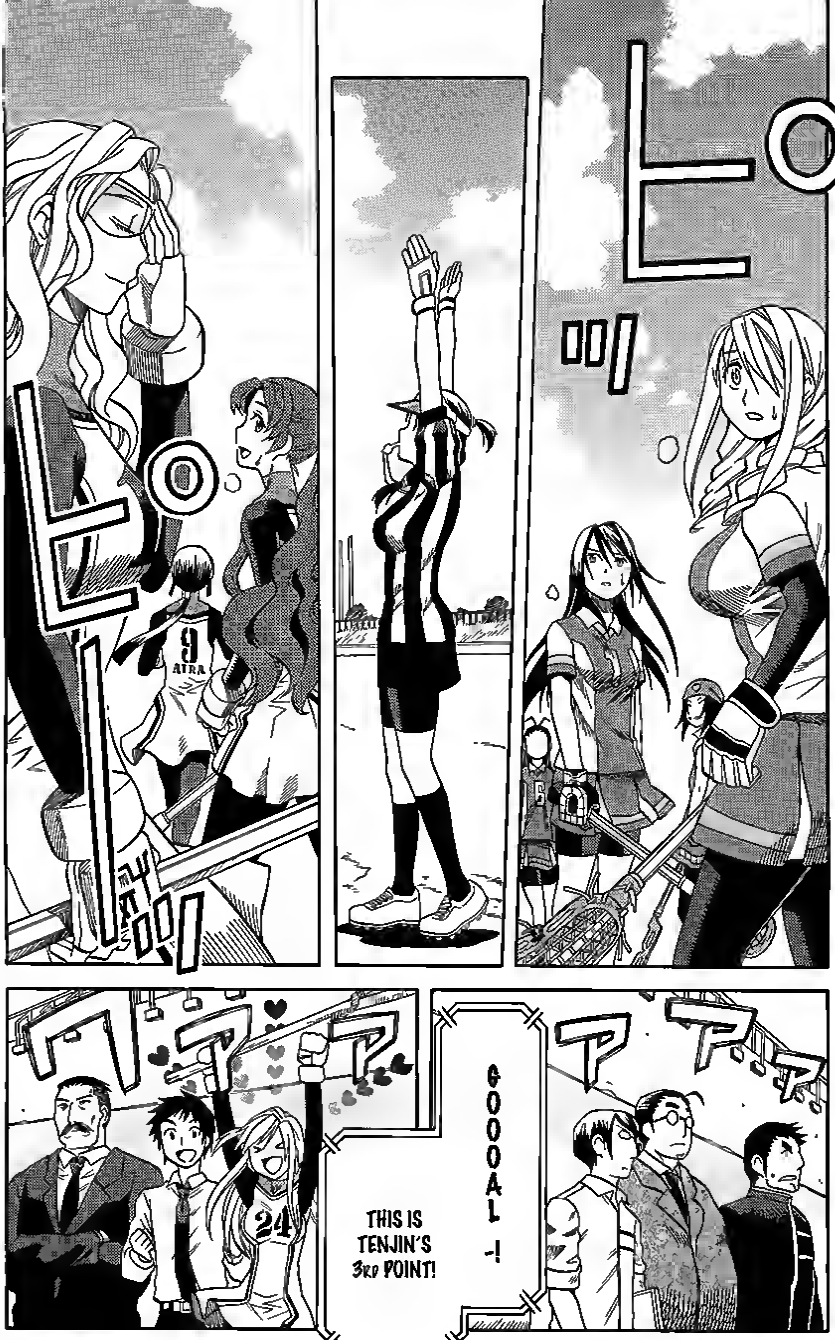
アァ
アァ
キキキ
THERE ARE ONLY 3 MINUTES LEFT TO THE FIRST HALF..
BACKDOOR CUT.
……
CAN CHIKUSHI SEAL OFF TENJIN'S ASSAULT?
BRING OUT YOUR WILLPOWER AND RESIST THE OPPOSITION!
R.okuna!
R.okuna, you can do it!
WE NEED TO MAKE SPACE
AND MAKE SURE THERE IS A FREE PLAYER
THE DEFENCE ZONE IS BEING PROTECTED PRETTY WELL!
THIS WAY, EVEN IF THE ENEMY WANTS TO MAKE A PASS OUTSIDE THEY CAN'T!

AMAKI
4
ICHIZAKI
99
YAEGAKI
!
SUDDENLY MAKING A USELESS PASS WITHIN THE 11M ZONE?
WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?
OH?!
MUTSUKA!

AH—!
SUDDENLY, FROM BEHIND ICHIZAKU, SOMEONE CATCHES THE BALL!
WITHIN A HAIR'S BREADTH, THE BALL WAS PASSED TO TENJIN'S #11 KAMIJUUIN, LANDING IT IN HER CROSSE!
THE FANGS OF CHIKUSHI HIGH'S GOAL FRONT HAVE NOW BEEN PULLED OUT!
Success!
THE SUCCESS OF THIS THROW WOULD REQUIRE THE ONE PASSING THE BALL AND THE ONE RECEIVING IT TO HAVE COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER.
THAT IS ONE AMAZINGLY INTENSE PASS!
AMAA!, BLOCK HER!

PARDON ME...
THE CAPTAIN SAID THAT DURING OFFENSE, WE DIDN'T HAVE TO THROW THE GAME.
HOWEVER...
FROM THE BEGINNING...
I NEVER HAD ANY INTENTIONS OF BEING MERCIFUL!

11
18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9
AIRA
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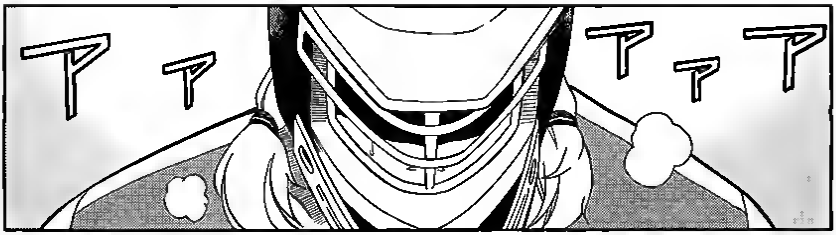
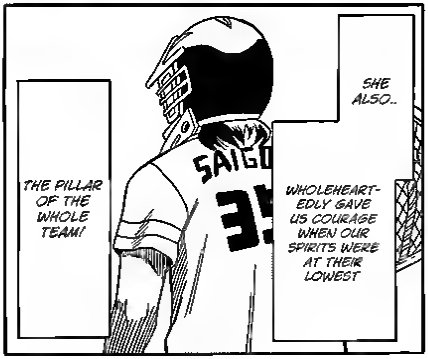
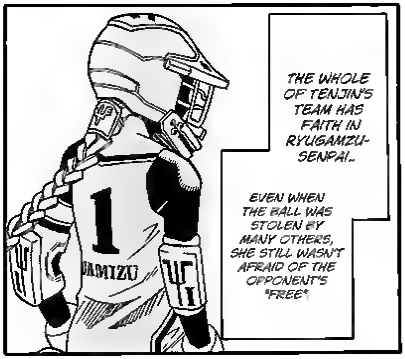
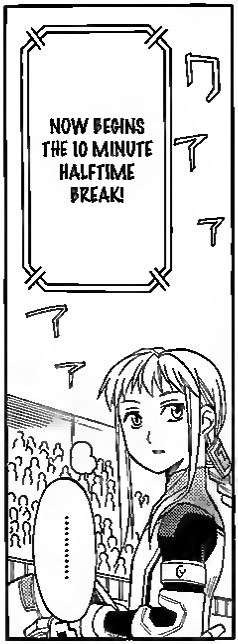
24
GOOOAL -!
THIS IS TENJIN'S 3RD POINT!




THE PILLAR OF THE WHOLE TEAM!
SHE ALSO..
WHOLEHEARTEDLY GAVE US COURAGE WHEN OUR SPIRITS WERE AT THEIR LOWEST


THE WHOLE OF TENJIN'S TEAM HAS FAITH IN RYUGAMZU-SENPAI..
EVEN WHEN THE BALL WAS STOLEN BY MANY OTHERS, SHE STILL WASN'T AFRAID OF THE OPPONENT'S "FREE"!
1
RYUGAMZU


NOW BEGINS THE 10 MINUTE HALFTIME BREAK!
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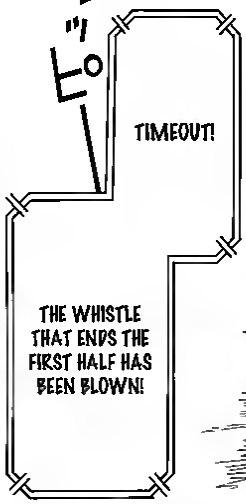
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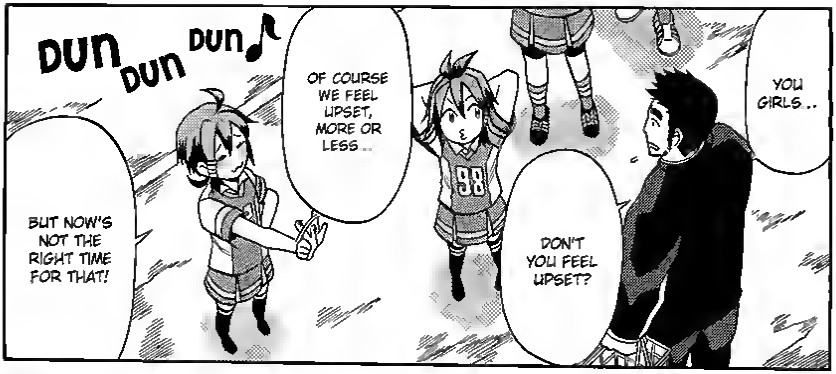
TIMEOUT!
THE WHISTLE THAT ENDS THE FIRST HALF HAS BEEN BLOWN!

WHILE I...

TENJIN MADE US WITNESS THEIR OVER-WHELMING STRENGTH.
About that, huh?
Chatter
Chatter
Chatter
Chatter
MR. SHIRASAWA, REVIEWING THE FIRST HALF OF THE MATCH. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WITH REGARDS TO THE ANGLE OF THE SHOT, THE PATHWAY TO THE GOAL HAD BECOME QUITE SMALL, MAKING IT A REALLY DIFFICULT SHOT TO MAKE.
WAS THAT SHE MOVED HER CROSSE FURTHER AWAY FROM THE DF'S POSITION GREATLY DECREASING THE CHANCES THAT THE BALL WOULD GET STOLEN
WHAT ALLOWED KAMIJUUIN TO SCORE FROM THE SIDE JUST THEN.
SHOWCASES THE BRILLIANT SYSTEM OF TENJIN'S PLAY
Is the team all right?
ALSO STARTING THAT BACK-DOOR CUT WITH 3 MINUTES LEFT...
YOU CAN SEE HOW STRONG THIS YEAR'S TENJIN REALLY IS!
BUT SHE WAS ABLE TO SCORE SO EASILY!
HOPEFULLY THEY WILL BE ABLE TO AVENGE THEMSELVES IN THE SECOND HALF!
Chatter
Chatter
Chatter
Chatter
IN COMPARISON, DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE GAME, THE RHYTHM OF CHIKUSHI'S OFFENSE HAS BEEN PACIFIED.

THEY DON'T HAVE TO LET THIS MAKE THEM ALL PESSIMISTIC.
AFTER THE TIME OUT, THEY ALL LISTENED TO THE OPPONENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, AND CHANGED THEIR OFFENSE ACCORDINGLY
EVEN THOUGH... I'M STILL NOT FEELING TOO HAPPY...
TAKE A GOOD REST AND TURN THE TABLES IN THE SECOND HALF!
Thanks
HERE, TAKE IT!
Huff
Huff
But there's no way to do this.
YOU GUYS LOOK LIKE YOU'VE LOST YOUR ENERGY!
Take this!
IT'S COURTESY TO FIGHT WITH ALL OF ONE'S STRENGTH AGAINST AN OPPONENT THAT COMES AT YOU WITH ALL OF THEIRS!
THIS WAY OF FIGHTING...
HHHHHH
IF THIS WERE A JOINT PRACTICE, THEN I GUESS THAT'S FINE..
GIVING INSTRUCTIONS TO OPPONENTS DURING A MATCH... THEY'RE REALLY LOOKING DOWN ON 'EM.
WH-WHAT?
HHHHH
HHHHHHHH

わっはっ
Danchou, you were amazing! Suddenly knowing just where to run when the gap appeared!
That was a lot like Tenjin!
NOW WE ALSO KNOW THAT WE HAVE TO OPEN UP LEFT AND RIGHT!
Did everyone see us?
YOU OPENED UP THE DF WITHOUT A HITCH, AND CREATED A GAP!
RIGHT? I REALLY FEEL LIKE I'VE CHANGED INTO A MORE AWESOME PERSON!
WE COULD ONLY DO SIMPLE PASSES
BEFORE, WHEN WE WERE ABLE TO MAKE A STEAL
We played the way we wanted to, it's really fun!
Though it still can't be considered a joint offense..
DURING OUR PRACTICES, WE CAN ONLY DO 6 ON 6.
That's why there are a lot of gaps.
Ugh
BUT WHEN IT BECOMES 12 ON 12, IT'S STILL A TOTALLY DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE!
WE'VE DONE THAT FOR A LONG TIME ALREADY
COACH DOI TOLD US TO PRACTICE HOW TO MOVE WHEN WE DON'T HAVE THE BALL

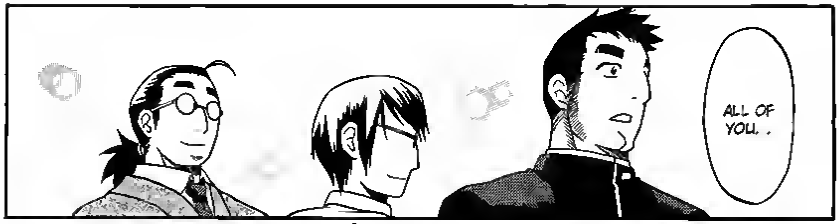

DUN DUN DUN
BUT NOW'S NOT THE RIGHT TIME FOR THAT!
OF COURSE WE FEEL UPSET, MORE OR LESS...
DON'T YOU FEEL UPSET?
YOU GIRLS..

AS THE SKILL GAP INCREASES, LACROSSE BECOMES MORE AND MORE FUN TO PLAY!

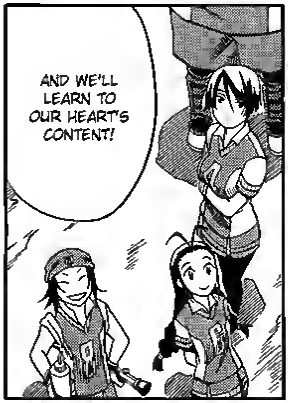
In the past, we never paid any attention to the enemy's movements, but after this match, we've learned to observe!
Our skills will increase even more!

WOOO
O!!!
THAT'S WHY, RIGHT NOW...

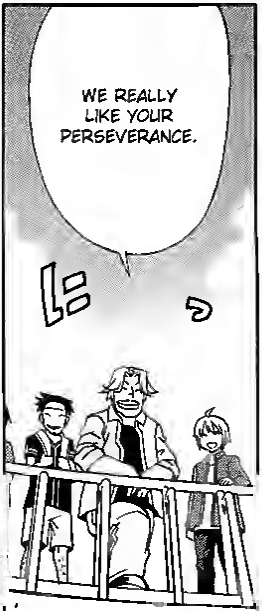
WE'RE SO HAPPY THAT WE'RE ABLE TO GROW STRONGER!
THIS FEELING IS MORE INTENSE THAT JUST NOT WANTING TO LOSE!
WAAA
AH!
32
88


ALL OF YOU...

わっはっはっはっはっは
Even kids like you are a real part of the team!
Well said!

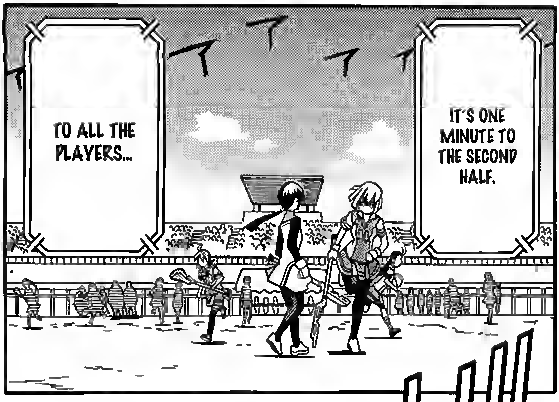

AND WE'LL LEARN TO OUR HEART'S CONTENT!

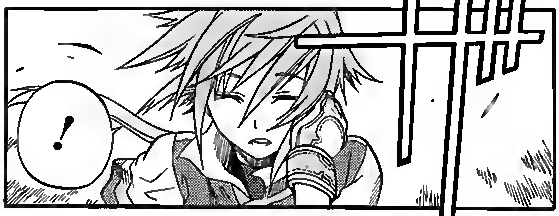
IF THE OPPONENT WANTS TO SUPPORT US, THEN WE WILL ACCEPT IT, OPEN HANDED!


WE REALLY LIKE YOUR PERSEVERANCE.
にっ

AFTER THAT...

T/N: DUKE XIANG OF SONG (650 637 BC) WAS A RULER DURING THE SPRING AND AUTUMN PERIOD (770 5TH CENT. BC) IN CHINA. WHEN HE DID BATTLE WITH RIVAL STATE CHU, HE ALLOWED HIS ENEMIES TO CROSS THE RIVER FIRST AND SET UP POSITION, DESPITE HIS TROOPS HAVING A TACTICAL ADVANTAGE. HE WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED AND HIS ARMY WAS DEFEATED IN THE ENSUING BATTLE

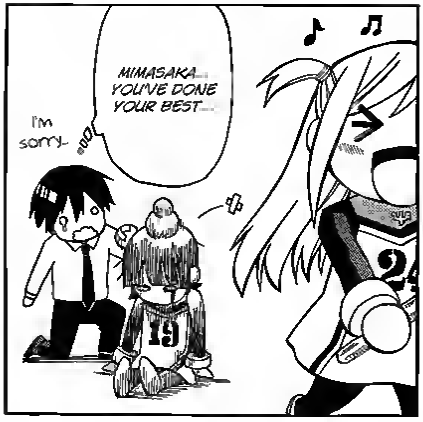




GOOD...
GET ON THE FIELD, THEN!
ITSUGI
18

Baggataway 5 END

BAGGATAWAY



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